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Question/Comment

You will be listening to testimony tomorrow regarding proposals to change some Energy and Building codes. My opinions are biased because I'm a part owner of a local fireplace business. But I see the issues that develop for people and their lives when power goes out in this area. Heat pumps are wonderful products, but they start to lose their efficiency when the ambient temperature reaches about 39 degrees. Also, heat pumps need electricity to function. Natural gas fireplaces and freestanding stoves either don't need power to operate or they make their own power. People then have a more efficient heating source in the heating season and a heating source during a power failure. To not allow builders to give people these options and essentially dictate to a homeowner of what product they can have installed seems limiting. There are too many instances in this region where power has gone out for days and folks end up going to hotels or elsewhere because of that. With a natural gas meter, a home can have a cook range, water heater, and fireplace that can all function and allow a family to survive without having to leave their home.